

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALWORTH
MASONIC LODGE, NUMBER 286**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Walworth, Wisconsin Masonic Lodge 286. Throughout this period, the Masons of Lodge 286 have made invaluable contributions to their community and to Wisconsin.

Faith, honor, integrity, responsibility for one's actions, the absolute right to intellectual and spiritual freedom, and self-control are the Masons' core values and principles. After the first Grand Lodge was founded in England in 1717, Masonry's rich history was solidified in America by such patriots as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Paul Revere, and John Hancock. Many would argue that the Masons and Masonry played a significant role in the Revolutionary War and an even more important part in the Constitutional Convention. For 100 years the Masons of the Walworth, Wisconsin Lodge 286 have worked to maintain this tradition and standard of excellence.

Charitable giving is also a large part of Masonry. Along with scholarship and loan funds to assist young people in furthering their education, Masons support many community-based charitable projects. These projects range from donating to children's hospitals and burn institutes built by Shriners, to simple and much needed services such as buying shoes and clothing for disadvantaged children. They have participated in charitable giving with other lodges in Wisconsin through the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation. Founded in 1925, the Foundation has been committed to educating our youth through an educational scholarship fund; caring for our elderly through the Wisconsin Masonic Home Endowment Fund; and doing good works through the Special Donor Advised Funds Program, which allows special donors to have naming rights as well as advisory capabilities related to the fund's intended purpose. Masons have constantly worked to make the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, the Masons of the Walworth, Wisconsin Lodge 286 have served as a model for all Masons for 100 years. Their commitment to God and country, emboldened by their brotherhood, has set a high standard for all Masonic lodges.

H.R. 1048—DISABLED VETERANS
ADAPTIVE BENEFITS IMPROVE-
MENT ACT OF 2003**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am introducing H.R. 1048, the Disabled Veterans Adaptive Benefits Improvement Act of 2003. Mr. CIRO RODRIGUEZ, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Benefits, as well as Chairman CHRIS SMITH and Rank-

ing Member LANE EVANS join me as original sponsors.

The Disabled Veterans Adaptive Benefits Improvement Act of 2003 would increase the one-time reimbursement VA may provide to certain severely disabled veterans to assist their purchase of an automobile from \$9,000 to \$11,000. According to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the average cost of a new automobile in 2001 was estimated to be \$21,605.

The bill would also increase the grant to help eligible veterans make adaptations to their homes, which are necessary because of the nature of their disability. The bill would raise the Specially Adapted Housing Grant from \$48,000 to \$50,000 for the most severely disabled veterans and from \$9,250 to \$10,000 for other severely disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation is the right thing to do for our severely disabled veterans so that they may live their lives in the most independent manner possible. I look forward to our colleagues' support of our efforts.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PATRICK
DiDOMENICO**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Patrick DiDomenico. From 1973 until just recently, Pat served as an elected official for the Town of Clay, New York, first in the role of town counselor and then town supervisor for the past 20 years. This makes him the longest continuously serving town supervisor in Onondaga County history. His long life of public service came to an end on February 8th of this year after a battle with cancer. He was only 65 years old.

Pat DiDomenico leaves behind his love for family and the town of Clay. I knew Pat as a genuinely kind and compassionate man who, when he wasn't smiling, was fighting hand and glove for the betterment of the town of Clay. He always marveled local colleagues with his steadfast ability to create astonishing opportunities and results from meager beginnings and often lopsided opposition. Under Pat's leadership the town of Clay has grown from a small rural community to a suburban township of 60,000 residents. His guidance is a testament to his skillful leadership of small town development. This is exemplified as Clay became the fastest growing town in New York State, growing from 36,274 in 1970 to 58,805 in 2000.

With the excitement of Clay's development, Pat made it a point to create fiscal prosperity for the town while easing the economic burdens of new growth. This is seen in the closing of Clay's landfill and the Three Rivers Project, which has transformed an old industrial area into a prospering tourist and commercial region for the town. His fingerprints can be found on all the major projects taken on by the town, foremost the development of Route 31, the Great Northern Mall and the recent completion of the new town hall. His visionary leadership was the primary root that has branched out into a town the size of many small cities.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to have known and worked with a leader who fought so hard

for a town he loved so much. Pat is one of the best civic leaders I have ever had the privilege to know in all my years of public service.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Pat DiDomenico for his endless years of service on behalf of the people of Clay and Onondaga County. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends, including wife Patricia and children Anthony, Patrick and Nicole. Pat's leadership will be missed, but his life will not be forgotten.

RECOGNITION OF DAWN HARDY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dawn Hardy, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1166, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, (1) Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, (2) earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, (3) earning the senior Girl Scout leadership award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, (4) designing a self development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and (5) spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Dawn created a self-esteem awareness program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dawn Hardy for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

THE HONORABLE JOHN MILLER
SWORN IN AS DIRECTOR OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE
TO MONITOR AND COMBAT
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, our former colleague, the Honorable John Miller, who served as a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Washington from 1984-92, was sworn in today by Vice President Dick

Cheney as the director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. John also serves in the Bush Administration as a senior adviser to the Secretary of State.

Sex trafficking is a growing problem of slavery both abroad and at home. John Miller is an excellent choice by the President for this job and we wish him well in this important position.

I insert for the RECORD the remarks John gave at his swearing-in ceremony.

Speech given by the Honorable John R. Miller at his swearing in as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, at the Capitol on March 4, 2003

Vice President Cheney, I feel honored and appreciative that someone who I respect as much as you has taken the time to swear me in. Thank you.

It is so good to see many of my former colleagues in Congress. House Majority Leader Tom Delay, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Frank Wolf and Chris Smith who have been such leaders on the slave trading issue, my class mates Howard Coble, Jim Saxton, Joe Barton, and from the neighboring district to mine in Seattle, Jim McDermott . . . thank you all for joining my family and me on this occasion.

Undersecretary Paula Dobriansky, thank you for your kind words and thank you for your work on human rights over the years and for your support, your counsel and your guidance.

And my thanks to all of you today who come as friends, or relatives, or advocates in this cause.

Most of all, I want to thank my wife, June, and our son, Rip, for supporting me in this effort.

When one takes on a challenge of modern day slavery, one benefits from the work of others, past and present. Some came long before, such as the English opponent of the slave trade, William Wilberforce, the American abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison; the Quakers with their Underground Railroad, or the men and women of the Salvation Army who started the fight against sex slavery in the 19th century.

Others whose shoulders I stand upon are less well known and more recent. But they are here in attendance today. I see Laura Lederer, who outside and now inside government, has labored to raise the public consciousness of trafficking around the world through her research, writing and speeches.

I see Amy O'Neill-Richard, who, with her seminal study on trafficking of women, influenced many inside government to understand that modern day slavery is a great emerging womens' issue.

I see Michael Horowitz, my friend and also welcome critic, who has been present and active at the creation of just about every important piece of human rights legislation this past decade.

I also see here many committed people from my office. Would you all please raise your hands. These are the people who travel thousands of miles and labor thousands of hours in their efforts to fight the slave trade.

The dimensions of the modern day slavery challenge that we face are vast. There are not thousands or hundreds of thousands but over a million people who are trafficked and enslaved every single year. That's right-over a million every single year.

Many of our fellow Americans believe slavery ended here after the Civil War. And, indeed, slavery based on color did end then in our country. But we know that today slavery based on color still exists in countries such as Mauritania.

We know that today slavery based on bonded labor still in the brick kilns of Pakistan and in exists on the farms of India, the charcoal camps of Brazil.

We know that today slavery based on military impressment of children goes on from Sri Lanka to Uganda.

And most of all, we know that today the fastest growing and And most of all, most hideous form of modern day slavery, sex slavery, reaches into most countries of the world, including these United States. We know that sex slavery makes billions for organized crime every year. We know at the same it time physically, mentally, and spiritually ruins millions of children and women.

Mr. Vice President, the struggle we wage to abolish modern day slavery will decide the fate of millions of human beings. But this struggle is also tied to the United States' role in the world. We live in a time when many people abroad do not know or have forgotten the idealism that led Americans to sacrifice over and over so that others might enjoy the God-given, inalienable right to liberty enunciated in our Declaration of Independence. They do not know what moves America; what makes us tick.

Now with many grave challenges facing us at home and abroad, the President and Congress have asked that we take on the ultimate issue of liberty: freeing people from slavery. It is an issue that cries out for national and international leadership. And as is so often the case, while many nations will cooperate in this fight, one nation must lead the way. Which country will put its power and resources into this fight to help the world's weakest achieve freedom? Which country will risk alienating others by reporting openly what's going on and holding out the possibility of aid sanctions to encourage action? There is only one answer to the question of which country must lead: it is the United States of America.

We lead not because we are perfect—we have our imperfections—including on this issue. We lead because we alone have the idealism, the power, the history and the commitment to freedom to lead the world in this new abolitionist struggle.

Yes, some abroad and even at home will view this effort with alarm and cynicism. They do not understand that on this as on many issues, our interests are reflected in our values. They will also ignore the fact that the fight against slavery is premised not only on our own values but universal values and UN covenants. Such people will still ask why are you trying to impose American values on the world? Two hundred years ago similar people asked the English evangelist and member of Parliament, William Wilberforce, as he fought to end the slave trade based on color, why are you trying to impose British values on the world? But Wilberforce persisted and persevered and millions who emerged for slavery to live in freedom thanked him and Great Britain. And just as today the people of Eastern Europe thank us for freeing them from Soviet tyranny, in the future, if we are successful, millions of men in forced peonage and millions of women and children forced into prostitution and sex slavery will thank the United States for their freedom.

Just last week President Bush issued an executive order that showed anew his determination that the U.S. lead the fight to abolish modern day slavery. President Bush became the first American President to challenge government agencies to make the fight against modern day slavery a priority in planning and deeds.

I am proud to serve an administration and a President who will make this issue of human rights and freedom an integral part of United States foreign policy.

I accept this position humbly, Mr. Vice President, and I ask for the prayers and help of those in this room and elsewhere. I have learned enough in my few weeks here to know that I truly need such prayers and help.

This struggle will not be short or easy. Wilberforce only succeeded in abolishing the 19th century slave trade after over 25 years. We will need his spirit and the spirit of our own nineteenth century abolitionists if we are to defeat this modern scourge.

But we all should know this: As we pursue this struggle, we will serve God, we will serve mankind, and we will serve our country well. And that is all we can and should ask of ourselves.

Thank you.

HONORING MICHAEL J. QUIRK—A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael J. Quirk for his service to his country and as a volunteer with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. At a time when the President is encouraging all Americans to serve our nation in a volunteer capacity the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will recognize Michael J. Quirk on his retirement from the Coast Guard Auxiliary with over 22 years of service. What is truly remarkable about Commodore Quirk is that prior to his involvement in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, he had also well and faithfully served our nation in the military for over thirty years.

In World War II, Commodore Quirk was a member of the famed 56th Fighter Group of the US Army Air Corps and achieved the status of Double-Ace. On his 100th mission he was shot down and was held as a prisoner-of-war until April 1945 at Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany. For his World War II service he received the Silver Star among other decorations and the Purple Heart for wounds received when his plane was shot down.

Following his return to the States in 1945, he entered Catholic University and, while pursuing his degree instructed Air National Guard to fly the P-47 . . . the plane he flew in Europe.

In 1947, after the service was formally established, Quirk returned to the service of his country with the US Air Force and over a thirty-year career saw service with the 4th Fighter Group flying F-80 Shooting Stars; Langley Air Force Base where flew F-86 Sabre jets; La Paz, Bolivia training Bolivian pilots to fly the P-47; the Central Air Defense Force from 1951-52; Commander of the 87th Fighter Interceptor Squadron; 453rd Tactical Fighter Training Wing; Seventh Air Force Headquarters, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, RVN; and completed his Air Force career at the Tactical Air Warfare Center, Eglin AFB, Florida, retiring as a Colonel in 1977.

Soon after his retirement from the US Air Force, he and his wife Kit joined the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the volunteer force of the United States Coast Guard, and rose through various positions in further service to the nation and served at Commodore of the 8th Coastal Region in 1990-1991.